

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A side impact protective apparatus for a motor vehicle occupant that is incorporated into a door of a motor vehicle that includes an external sheet and a door interior element, said apparatus comprising:

a pressure gas source,

a one-piece covering (11) including a downward projecting shoulder (22) at its upper edge that reaches behind a part of said door interior element to suspend the covering from said door interior element, ~~the covering including an upper edge side region, a lower edge side region, and a front face interconnecting the upper and lower edge side regions, and~~

a gas bag (6) having respective longitudinal ends which can be inflated by the pressure gas source, the gas bag being folded together and arranged in a resting position ~~along the upper edge side region of~~ behind the covering, and, when inflated by the pressure gas source, releasing ~~a suspension connection between said upper edge of said covering and said door interior element~~ the downward projecting shoulder and exiting upwardly in a region of a side wall railing through a slot formed between the upper edge side region of the covering and a side window, thereby extending upward along an interior of the side window as impact protection for a head region of the occupant,

~~wherein the upper edge side region is connected to the lower edge side region along a connection line extending between spaced fastenings disposed at distances from said respective longitudinal ends of the gas bag,~~

~~wherein the connection line is disposed adjacent a lower gas bag edge,~~

~~wherein the connection line forms a pivot axis for the upper edge side region of the covering, and~~

wherein the covering is connected on opposed peripheral sides of the covering with the door of the motor vehicle by two detachable spaced fastenings (32, 33) and wherein an ideal connection line (31) is defined on the one-piece covering through the two detachable spaced fastenings such that a swiveling axis is formed by the ideal connection line for pivoting an upper edge region (28) of the one-piece covering on the ideal connection line, and

wherein said a cross front face (34) of the covering includes a weakening (35) defined therein, adjacent the upper edge side region wherein the cross front face extends substantially perpendicular to a face of the covering that faces a passenger space (20) of the motor vehicle and wherein the weakening runs parallel to an external contour (40) of the covering turned towards the passenger space, and wherein the one-piece covering is tearable in a region of the weakening when the upper edge region (28) of the one-piece covering pivots.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein one of the spaced fastenings, viewed in ~~the~~ a direction of travel, is a frontally positioned fastening of the covering which adjoins an internally positioned door opener of the motor vehicle door.

4. (Currently Amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein one of the spaced fastenings, viewed in ~~the~~ a direction of

travel, is a rear-positioned fastening of the covering which is arranged adjoining the weakening ~~defined in the front face.~~

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weakening is formed by bore holes, ~~wherein centers of the bore holes lie on a common, arch-like formed central line, and wherein a connection bar is arranged between two adjoining bore holes.~~

8. (Previously Presented) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the weakening is formed by slit-like openings.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the rear-positioned ~~face~~ fastening and the weakening are covered by a superimposed protective cap.

11. (Original) The side impact protective apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an embedded net-like fabric insert is provided inside a carrier element of the covering at least adjoining the side impact protective apparatus.

12-23. (Cancelled)